



Sandusky Area Chamber of Commerce

26 W. Speaker Street, Sandusky, MI 48471 • 810-648-4445

To: Michigan Legislature

3-16-09

From: William Dixon, Vice President

RE: Use of ATV's on Select County Roads

Dear Madams and Sirs,

We in the Thumb area have the unique situation of occupying a peninsula within a peninsula, and have long been dependent on automotive and agricultural production to sustain our work-force. The current downturn in automotive has forced thousands out of work. Our current unemployment levels are among the highest in the country. We need action to assist our recovery. Please allow the respective counties to permit ATV operation on the shoulder of select area roadways as quickly as possible. Doing so, would benefit this area in countless ways by adding an influx of new local, as well as distant tourism dollars. It could also positively impact declining real-estate values and create new jobs.

An ever changing backdrop of spring green to summer sun, from harvest gold to winter white, any who partake in the area scenery and hospitality will be anxious to return. With no freeways within 50 miles, currently we attract little tourism dollars west of the lakeshore. We need to give travelers a reason to visit us. This opportunity now rests in your capable hands. Many times when new legislation is adopted, something becomes prohibited. In this case however, you could be directly associated with restoring a personal liberty.

Please advise us of your decision at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very Best Regards,

-William Dixon

Vice President

Sandusky Area Chamber of Commerce

HB 4507